

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name "Sandwich"

other names/site number "Old Customs House"; DHR# 316-0001; DHR #316-0009-0001

2. Location

street & number 131 Virginia Street not for publication N/A

city or town Urbanna vicinity X

state Virginia code VA county Middlesex code 119 zip code 23175

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register

 other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Historic Preservation

Settlement (Family History)

Landscape Architecture

Periods of Significance Second half of 18th century; and 1934-1960

Significant Dates Second half of 18th century; and 1934-1960

Significant Persons (Complete if Criterion B is marked above Francis Makemie; John Gordon; Overton Cosby; Governor Andrew Jackson Montague; General R. L. Montague, II)

Cultural Affiliation NA

Architect/Builder Unknown; Gordon, John

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6 acres

UTM References(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	
18	361271	4166722 (center of entire property)	<u>See continuation Sheet</u>

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title R. Latane Montague, IV
organization _____ date December 28, 2007
street & number 6029 Woodmont Road telephone (202) 637-6567
city or town Alexandria state VA zip code 22307

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Robert L. Montague, III and R. Latane Montague, IV
street & number 131 Virginia Street telephone (804) 758-2663
city or town Urbanna state VA zip code 23175

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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7. Summary Description

Located in Middlesex County, in the town of Urbanna, the property known as Sandwich consists of five contributing buildings, one contributing structure, and one contributing site from two periods of significance. From the Colonial period, there is a single brick dwelling, and from the Colonial Revival period, there is a brick wall, and a formal boxwood garden site, which includes four contributing garden buildings, also from the Colonial Revival period. The property also contains two non-contributing buildings; a boathouse and garage.

Detailed Description

The primary dwelling house is set on a bluff overlooking the Urbanna Creek to the East, the Rappahannock River to the North East, and the tobacco rolling road (Virginia Street) to the South. The three bay rectangular plan brick structure is built into the side of a steep hill with one and a half stories on the west up-hill facade, and two and a half stories on the east side. The walls are laid in Flemish bond with queen closers at the corners above that water table, and irregular Flemish bond for the top courses immediately below the water table. The lower courses are laid in English bond. The north end has an interior chimney. The south end has a large exterior chimney with two sets of sloping shoulders and a stack set away from the gable. Currently, the building has a slate gable roof with five hipped dormers on the east and west slopes, and a modillion cornice on the east and west facades. On the east side a single-bay gable roofed screened porch with a pediment and modillion cornice shelters the central door. The west entrance is not sheltered, but has a pair of stone steps with a simple iron balustrade. The west and east entrances feature six-paneled doors with small central panels surrounded by molded trim under transom windows. On the main level the windows are wooden double-hung with nine-over-nine lights. On the top level, the gable end windows have four-over-four lights, and are surrounded by plain trim with a beaded edge. The dormer windows have nine-over-six lights.

The floor plan consists of a central hall with two rooms to the north, and one on the south side of the hall. The hall features an original closed-string staircase. The walls that are not paneled are plastered and painted. The south room features 18th century paneling around the fireplace with raised vertical rectangular panels. The chimney is flanked by two fluted Doric pilasters, and the chimney breast has one large horizontal panel flanked by two smaller vertical panels, while a series of three panels range across the upper field. There is a molded shelf above the fireplace opening. The doors and windows have architrave trim. The north rooms were paneled in a similar 18th century style during the home's restoration in the 1930s. The restored rooms feature wood work and doors built to precisely match the 18th century examples that remained in the house at the time of the restoration. The finished English basement also has matching woodwork installed in the 1930s and a brick floor. The top floor also features doors and wood trim that were copied from the original woodwork on the main level, and installed in the 1930s.

Overall, the building reflects two architectural periods, the exterior walls, and some interior woodwork is most likely original and reflects mid-18th century styles and construction techniques. When the building was purchased by the Montague family in the 1930s, the roof, portions of the exterior trim, and portions of the interior had been substantially altered by late 19th and early 20th century renovations that had made no effort to retain the original style or fabric of the building as originally constructed. For example, the roof had been replaced with a 20th century roof with overhanging eaves, and a large multi-bay shed dormer on the east side. In addition, the house was in poor condition, it had sat vacant for a number of years after the death of the previous owner, and had been subjected to significant termite and water damage.

The house was renovated in the 1930s to make it habitable, and at that time every effort was made to return it to the appearance it was believed it would have had in the mid-18th century. The 1930's restoration

also reflects the zeal for mid-18th century style that was at the heart of the Colonial Revival movement in

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Virginia. Governor Montague, and his wife were avid preservationists and early promoters of rich history of the state of Virginia. For example, Governor Montague was instrumental in the preservation and recognition of Jamestown. Securing legislative appropriations for the tri-centennial Jamestown Exposition in 1903 was a significant accomplishment during his term as Governor. The 1930s restoration of Sandwich was researched, directed, and managed by the daughter of Governor Montague, Mrs. Charles Beatty (Gay Montague) Moore. Gay Moore, was also an early and active pioneer in what is now called the Colonial Revival movement and today Sandwich remains a living testament to that life-long effort.

In addition to her work at Sandwich, Gay Moore was a leader in the preservation and restoration of Old Town Alexandria, Virginia beginning in the late 1920s. She helped found the Historic Alexandria Foundation in 1954. In 1949, she published Seaport In Virginia, which was the seminal history of buildings in Old Town Alexandria, and typified the enthusiasm for colonial architecture at the heart of the movement. In addition to her work on Sandwich, her life-work in preservation included the preservation and restoration of the George William Fairfax House, Gatesby's Tavern, the George Washington Tenements, 1101 Prince Street, and the Robert E. Lee boyhood home in Alexandria, and Toddsbury, and Inglewood in Gloucester County among others. Architectural drawings from the period of the restoration indicate that she worked with Thomas Waterman, Virginia's most prominent architectural historian at the time.

The mid-1930s restoration at Sandwich sought to preserve all original features of the house that remained at that time, and returned them to the style they would have reflected when the house was originally built. The restoration included a new slate roof, with dormer windows, and new woodwork in the basement and top floor to match the original woodwork that was found in the south room on the main floor

A very significant feature from the mid-century restoration is the formal boxwood garden that lies immediately to the north of the dwelling. Design and construction of the garden began in 1934 when the Montague family purchased the property. The gardens consist of two sets of boxwood mazes or partiers on either side of a central brick path covered with a grape arbor. To the east of the central path, the partiers consist of a set of four squares bisected by brick paths running north-south and east-west. On the west side of the central path, the partiers consist of four right-triangles enclosing a diamond shaped path. The boxwood partiers were installed within the earlier 1930s garden by General R. Latane Montague in 1954. Immediately before moving to Sandwich, General Montague served as the first director of George Mason's Gunston Hall Plantation. When he retired from Gunston, the gardeners presented him with English boxwoods from the Gunston Hall nurseries to create the partiers described above. Additional contributing elements to this Colonial Revival garden include: a small carriage house; a two brick garden houses, and a wooden summer house/gazebo. The carriage house was built in 1934 in the same style as the main house and is built of recycled 18th century bricks salvaged from the Richmond area and covered with a Buckingham slate roof. The gazebo was built in 1934. The square brick garden houses were built in 1960 and feature pyramidal roofs with wooden finials and paneled doors. All the buildings were built in a colonial style, and are similar in architectural detail to original outbuildings and reproductions found in Colonial Williamsburg.

Overall, Sandwich today exemplifies traditional colonial architecture of Virginia's Tidewater region. The original building, as well as the Colonial Revival restoration and landscaping, work together to create a coherent sense of place that evokes both the period of Sandwich's original construction, and the vision and aesthetic of the Colonial Revival era.

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8. Summary Statement of Significance

Little Sandwich (hereinafter just "Sandwich") is considered by many historians to be one of the oldest remaining buildings in the Town of Urbanna Historic District.¹ The Urbanna Historic District was an integral part of the active colonial tobacco port-town of Urbanna that was established by the 1680 Cohabitation Act and the 1690 Act for Ports. The historic significance of the colonial tobacco port at Urbanna is discussed in detail in Urbanna Historic District nomination application and a number of published historical works referenced in the bibliography. The colonial port Town of Urbanna is well recognized for its importance to a number of "areas of significance" including: the creation and settlement of local communities during the colonial era, and the role of those communities in the agrarian tobacco economy that drove that settlement and development process. As one of the oldest and most significant remaining structures within the historic portion of the Town of Urbanna, the property is eligible for listing under National Register Criteria B and C as explained in more detail below

In addition, the property is associated with the lives of a number of individuals who have played a significant role in the history of the region, state, and/or nation, including: i) Francis Makemie, the first Presbyterian minister in America; ii) John Gordon, a successful and influential merchant who helped establish Urbanna as a thriving colonial tobacco port; iii) Overton Cosby, a leading local businessman and Virginia State Delegate from 1787-1788 and 1791-1792, gentlemen justice in 1796, and County Clerk from 1799-1806; iii) Thomas Muse, County Clerk from 1806-1811; iv) Judge Clagett B. Jones (1857-1931), Commonwealth's Attorney for King & Queen County 1887, and representative to the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1901; v) Governor Andrew Jackson Montague, Governor of Virginia from 1902-06, Dean of the Law School at the University of Richmond 1906-1909, United States Congressman from 1912-1937; Gay Montague Moore, and vi) General Robert L. Montague, II, a distinguished and highly decorated veteran of World War I and World War II. The property's connection with these former owners makes it eligible for listing under National Register Criteria B.

The property is eligible for listing under National Register Criteria C because it embodies the distinctive characteristics of both an 18th century tobacco port residence, and the distinctive characteristics of a Colonial Revival era restoration and garden landscape.

I. Historical Background: Initial Period of Significance 1754-1800

A. Land Records

There is no direct documentary evidence of the exact construction date for Sandwich, but the Land Records of Middlesex County indicate that was built between 1754 and 1762 by John Gordon. The Town of Urbanna was established in 1680. Sandwich was constructed on Urbanna lot number 34, which was one the earliest town lots laid out by the founders of the town. Lot 34 is depicted on the 1704 Thacker Plan of Urbanna in the heart of the town's historic waterfront village. The earliest referenced owner of lot 34 was Edmund Hamerton who was indicated as the owner by 1704. The lot was purchased by John Gordon in 1754 for 7 pounds, 10 shillings.² In 1762 John and Lucy Gordon sold lot 34 for a sum of 300 pounds.³ The increase in value of the ½ acre lot from 7 pounds, 10 shillings in 1754, to 300 pounds in 1762 indicates that a major structure or improvement was added to the lot some time in this period, which is most likely the house known as Sandwich. In 1762, John Gordon also purchased lot #33, which was adjacent to Lot 34, for 8 pounds, 12 shillings, which confirms that the value of vacant lots in Urbanna was still around 8 pounds in 1762, and that the 300 pound price paid for lot 34 in 1762 reflects the value of

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B. Mutual Assurance Society Of Virginia Records

Virginia Mutual Assurance Society records confirm that Sandwich was built some time well before 1801, the date of the earliest known policy on this property. The absence of Mutual Assurance records from earlier dates is not probative since the Mutual Assurance Society did not exist before 1796, and in fact, there are no known Mutual Assurance Society policies issued for any properties in Urbanna prior to 1801.

The Mutual Assurance Society records contain three documents describing the Sandwich structure: one "Declaration of Assurance" (dated 1801); and two "Revaluation of Buildings Formerly Declared for Assurance" dated 1805 and 1815 respectively (emphasis added). The 1805 and 1815 Revaluation documents reference a brick dwelling house on lots 33, 34, and 38 with the precise dimensions of Sandwich as it stands today at 42' x 27'. They also indicate that the dwelling house had a porch on the front, placed off-center towards the north end, and note the dimensions of this off-center porch separately, as an additional sub-structure with dimensions of 26' X 10' which are in addition to the 42'x27' foot dimensions noted for the main house. The 1805 and 1815 Revaluations expressly state that they are revaluing "the buildings insured per declaration No. 475." The 1801 Declaration of Assurance is marked as declaration "No. 475," which leaves no doubt that all three insurance documents refer to same dwelling house, Sandwich. The 1801 Declaration references a brick dwelling house on lot 34, with dimensions that also match the building that exists on this site today. The 1801 declaration includes a drawing of Sandwich which shows that it had a different porch in 1801 than in 1805/1815. In 1801, the house is depicted with a porch that ran the full length of the front, east-facing wall. The dimensions of the house and full-length porch are listed together as a single rectangular structure totaling 42'x 37'. Accordingly, the 1801 dimensions match the dimensions of the existing structure, minus the width of a front porch which is no longer present

The insurance documents indicate that the insured buildings significantly pre-date the date of each policy. In each document the replacement value significantly exceeds the listed present valuation, which indicates that the buildings had depreciated at the time each policy was issued or updated. Most importantly for dating the construction of Sandwich, even the earliest of the three insurance declarations references significantly depreciated improvements. In the 1801 declaration, the Sandwich improvements were given a present value of \$1,600 and a replacement cost of \$2,500. This indicates that the improvements had significantly depreciated (36% of replacement cost) as of 1801, and that the buildings were constructed some time well before 1801. This 36% depreciation is consistent with, and supportive of the land records research which separately indicates a date of construction of between 1754 and 1762.⁵

II. Criteria B: Association With the Lives of Persons Significant In Our Past

Sandwich has also served as a residence for a number of individuals who have been significant in local, regional and national history, including: i) Francis Makemie, the first Presbyterian minister in America; ii) John Gordon, a successful and influential merchant who helped establish Urbanna as a thriving colonial tobacco port; iii) Overton Cosby, a leading local businessman and Virginia State Delegate from 1787-1788 and 1791-1792, gentlemen justice in 1796, and County Clerk from 1799-1806; iii) Thomas Muse, County Clerk from 1806-1811; iv) Judge Clagett B. Jones (1857-1931), Commonwealth's Attorney for King & Queen County 1887, and representative to the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1901; v) Governor Andrew Jackson Montague, Governor of Virginia from 1902-06, Dean of the Law School at the University of Richmond, United States Congressman from 1912-1937; and vi) General Robert L.

Montague, II, a distinguished and highly decorated Marine Corps veteran of World War I and World War II.
This long

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association, spanning three centuries, provides an independent basis for listing under National Register Criteria B.

Scotsman **Francis Makemie**, the first Presbyterian Minister in America, and founder of the Presbyterian Church in America, was also a merchant and one of the early investors in the Town of Urbanna.⁶ Makemie's property in Urbanna was lot #33 which is immediately adjacent to lot #34 and has been a part of the larger property known today as Sandwich since 1762. Makemie's will dated April 27, 1708, and probated August 4, 1708, left "... my lott and house or frame of a house in the new towne on Wormlye's [sic] creek, called Urbana, ...".⁷ In 1762, the daughter of Francis Mackemie, Anne Holden, wife of George Holden, sold her property at lot 33 to John Gordon for 8 pounds, 12 shillings.⁸

Scottish merchants created Urbanna, and were the life blood of port towns like it during the colonial mercantile era of the Chesapeake Bay region. **John Gordon** was one of the most important and successful of these early entrepreneurs to both Urbanna, and the commercial success of the lower Rappahannock during this period. John Gordon purchased lot 34 in 1754 and owned it until 1762. As noted above, Sandwich was most likely constructed by John Gordon during his ownership of lot 34. Gordon was a wealthy and influential member of the community. In speaking of the Gordons, Reverend William Henry Foote said, "His brother John resided at the opposite side of the river Rappahannock in Middlesex County, at Urbanna, the county seat, and port of entry. These brothers were enterprising and successful merchants, and became wealthy and influential."⁹

Overton Cosby purchased Sandwich in 1790.¹⁰ Overton Cosby was a prominent member of the community, and represented Middlesex County in the Lower House of the State Legislature for the 1787-1788 and 1791-1792 terms. He was one of the gentlemen justices of the county in 1796, and County Clerk from 1799-1806. Urbanna was the county seat until the middle of the 19th century and the county court house at that time was just a few block up Virginia street from Sandwich. Cosby's will, probated in 1807 gives some insight into his wealth and station in life. It bequeathed silver, books, and number of slaves and read in part, "I give and bequeath to my negro man William Barber, my mulatto man George, my negro woman Jenny, her daughter Nancy Lightfoot, and also her daughter Carthagena, their freedom . . .".¹¹

Thomas Muse, County Clerk from 1806 to 1811, purchased Sandwich in 1809.¹² After Muse's death Sandwich was owned by a number of other leading local citizens including Augustine Owen, Mordecai P. Gressitt, and B.W. Morgan.¹³

In November, 1934, Elizabeth Hoskins Montague and **Andrew Jackson Montague** purchased the property from the estate of Judge Clagett B. Jones. Andrew Jackson Montague had a long career in state and national politics and was a leader in the Progressive movement. He served as United States Attorney for the Western District of Virginia from 1893-1898; was elected attorney General of Virginia in 1898; was elected Governor of Virginia from 1902-06; was Dean of the Law School at the University of Richmond from 1906-1909; and served in the United States Congress from 1912 -1937. The Montague family settled in Middlesex county in the 1640s, and the purchase of Sandwich was the fulfillment of a life-long dream of Governor Montague. Governor Montague was born near Lynchburg, Virginia in 1862. His family had fled Middlesex county earlier that year to escape bombardment by Union gun boats that were patrolling the Rappahannock River near Urbanna. The Montague family farm on the Rappahannock just up-river from

Urbanna was a target because Governor Montague's father (Lt. Governor Robert Latane Montague, 1819-1880) was President of the Virginia Secession Convention of 1861, and represented Virginia in the Confederate Congress. After the war, the family returned to Middlesex, but Andrew Jackson's father died in 1880 when he was 18 and the family farm was soon sold. The purchase of Sandwich reunited the family

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with its roots in Middlesex County.

Gay Montague Moore, who was instrumental in the restoration of Sandwich, was also an early and active pioneer in what is now called the Colonial Revival movement, and today Sandwich remains a living testament to that life-long effort. In addition to her work at Sandwich, Gay Moore was a leader in the preservation and restoration of Old Town Alexandria, Virginia beginning in the late 1920s. She helped found the Historic Alexandria Foundation in 1954. In 1949, she published Seaport In Virginia, which was the seminal history of buildings in Old Town Alexandria, and typified the enthusiasm for colonial architecture at the heart of the movement. Her other preservation activities included the preservation and restoration of the George William Fairfax House, Gatesby's Tavern, the George Washington Tenements, 1101 Prince Street, and the Robert E. Lee boyhood home, all in Alexandria, and Toddsbury, and Inglewood in Gloucester County among others. Architectural drawings from the period of the restoration indicate that she worked with Thomas Waterman and F.W. McCarthy.

In 1954 **General R. Latane Montague, II**, a distinguished and highly decorated veteran of World War I and World War II retired to Sandwich and continued the restoration and preservation efforts that were begun by his parents in 1934. Today the property is the home of his son, Robert L. Montague, III Esq. who continues the effort to preserve the history of important sites and structures in the town and region. Additionally, General Montague was iserved as director of of Gunston Hall, the home of George Masion in Fairfax County, a hisoric museum estate owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia.

This long association between Sandwich and people of significance to the history of the region and the country, spanning three centuries, provides further support for listing the property under National Register Category A, and provides an independent basis for listing under National Register Criteria B.

III. Criteria C: Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of an 18th Century Village Dwelling, a Colonial Revival Restoration, and Garden Landscape

As shown in the attached photographs and description, Sandwich continues to embody the distinctive characteristics of an 18th Century Village dwelling and landscape. In addition, both the home and the surrounding Landscape, which remains undeveloped and preserved with unobstructed views of the Rappahannock River, Urbanna Creek, the Tobacco Warehouse, and the Tobacco rolling road, provide a real sense of what the Town of Urbanna, and other colonial tobacco Ports may have looked and felt like in the 18th Century. The property is in excellent condition, and has preserved much of the original building fabric that was present when the building was restored in the 1930s. In addition, Sandwich also remains an excellent example of a 1930s restoration that was undertaken by the best architects and state-of-the-art research that was available in Virginia. The restored house and garden remain well preserved.

Overall, Sandwich today exemplifies early 18th century domestic architecture in the Tidewater Region. The original building, as well as the 1930s restoration and landscaping, work together to create a coherent sense of place that evokes both the period of Sandwich's original construction, as well as the vision and aesthetic of the Colonial Revival era.

IV. Customs House Tradition

It should be noted that the building is considered by local historians to have served as a customs house, or the home of the local customs officer before the Revolution.¹⁴ It is well established that Urbanna was created from the beginning as a port of entry by the Virginia Assembly and that the Collector of Customs

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was required by law to live in the port town to which he had been appointed by the Governor.¹⁵ These Collectors of Customs owned at different times portions of the property now known as Sandwich, including: Christopher Robinson and Staige Davis. The Customs House in Urbanna is documented and described by John Williams who described it in his papers after a visit in 1770. As described by Williams, "The Custom House is a good brick building. It consists of three rooms, one large and two small; and no part of it is occupied for any other purposes. And I think it reasonable at a rent of ten pounds per annum."

¹⁶ This description of the floor plan matches Sandwich precisely. When Sandwich was restored in the 1930s a small interior window between the main hall the large room was discovered hidden in the wall. It was believed by those who discovered it, and local historians to be a window through which customs business was transacted. In addition, a large vault room was found in the basement accessed by a heavy wooden door with oversized cast iron hinges and hardware that would be out of the ordinary for a house of this small size if it was used only as a dwelling house. In addition, Sandwich's proximity to the rolling road, the creek, and Tobacco Warehouse are consistent with use as a custom's house. Finally, there is no evidence of any other building or structure in Urbanna ever meeting this description or ever being known as the Customs House, and there has never been any evidence that Sandwich was not the Urbanna Customs house. Although there is significant evidence that Sandwich was the Customs house, and no evidence that it was not, we are not relying on those facts, or that traditional as the basis for nominating this property at this time. But these facts should be preserved in the record so that the theory can be further researched by future generations.

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Middlesex County Deed Book 1754-1767.

Middlesex County Will Books.

Middlesex County Land Tax Books 1820-1850.

Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia Records for Urbanna 1801-1859.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

That certain house known as "Sandwich" together with six acres, more or less, and all other improvements thereon, located at 131 Virginia Street, and bounded by Urbanna Creek, Jameson's Cove, Property of Mr. & Mrs. R.L. Montague, IV, and Mr. & Mrs. R.V. Mattingly, Property of F.B. Montague, and Virginia Street.

Being the property devised to Robert L. Montague, III, by the will of Elizabeth Hoskins Montague, recorded in will book 24 at Pages 198-201 among the land records of Middlesex County, Virginia.

Boundary Justification

This property described above contains both the historic dwelling and the garden landscape described at section 7, and as currently owned and known as "Sandwich" at 131 Virginia Street in Urbanna, Virginia.

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Photograph List

The following is the same for all photographs:

Sandwich, Urbanna, Middlesex, Virginia #316-0001

Photos taken December 2007 by R. Latane Montague

Digital images stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

- #1 West Elevation, Photo 1 of 24
- #2 West Elevation II, Photo 2 of 24
- #3 North Elevation, Photo 3 of 24
- #4 East Façade, Photo 4 of 24
- #5 East Façade II, Photo 5 of 24
- #6 East Façade III, Photo 6 of 24
- #7 South Elevation, Photo 7 of 24
- #8 South Elevation II, Photo 8 of 24
- #9 South Elevation III, Photo 9 of 24
- #10 South Elevation IV, Photo 10 of 24
- #11 View from Southwest, Photo 11 of 24
- #12 Garage, Photo 12 of 24
- #13 Garage II, Photo 13 of 24
- #14 Garden House, Photo 14 of 24
- #15 Tool House, Photo 15 of 24
- #16 Summer House, Photo 16 of 24
- #17 Entrance Hall, Photo 17 of 24
- #18 Entrance Hall Stairs II, Photo 18 of 24
- #19 Entrance Hall Stairs, Photo 19 of 24
- #20 Living Room III, Photo 20 of 24
- #21 Living Room II, Photo 21 of 24
- #22 Living Room I, Photo 22 of 24
- #23 Dining Room, Photo 23 of 24
- #24 Dining Room II, Photo 24 of 24

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Endnotes

¹ VDHR File # 316-0009, VLR 08/21/1990, and NRHP 02/07/1991.

² Middlesex County Deed Book, 8A, page 14.

³ Middlesex County Deed Book, 8A, page 345.

⁴ Middlesex County Deed Book, 1754-1767 Part II, pages 419-421.

⁵ By 1815, the revaluation document indicates that the improvements had further depreciated to \$1,386, for an average annual depreciation rate of 0.93% per-year between 1801 and 1815. For the sake of example, assuming this as an annual linear depreciation rate, a structure originally costing \$2,500 would take about 39 years to depreciate to a present value of \$1,600. Of course this not scientific "proof" that Sandwich was built in 1762, but it helps illustrate how the significant depreciation of the improvements on this site is supportive of a pre-revolutionary date of construction, and is consistent with the land records which point to a date of construction between 1754-1762.

⁶ Lord Corbury, colonial Governor of New York, had Makemie arrested in 1707 for preaching dissent and described Makemie as follows: "He is a jack-at-all-trades; he is a preacher, a doctor of physic, a merchant, a counselor at law, and which is worst of all, a disturber of governments." Makemie's marriage to Naomi Anderson, daughter of the wealthy William Anderson enabled him to play an active role in speculative business ventures such as the development of Urbanna.

⁷ Sketches of Virginia, p 57.

⁸ Middlesex County Deed Book 8 A, p 419.

⁹ Sketches of Virginia, p. 359.

¹⁰ Middlesex County Deed Book 11, p. 487.

¹¹ Middlesex County Will Book 2, p. 336.

¹² Middlesex County Deed Book 12, p. 611.

¹³ Middlesex County Land Tax Book 1820-1888.

¹⁴ See, Urbanna: A Port Town In Virginia 1680-1980 page 20.

¹⁵ Id at 18. Collectors of customs resident in Urbanna include among others: Christopher Robinson (appointed 1713); Charles Carter (1728); John Curtis (1731); John Robinson; George Harding; Thomas Langely (1739); Christopher Curtis; John Wortham; George Davis; Staige Davis; Hudson Muse (circa 1787).

¹⁶ Joseph R. Frese, The Royal Customs Service In the Chesapeake, VMHB, vol. 81, p 280, July, 1973.